Government and AAI are required. Further action in the matter is contingent on signing of the MoU and transfer of additional land from the State Government to AAI.

Modernization of non-metro airports

185. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scheme has been formulated to modernize 35 non-metro airports;

(b) if so, the details of such airports;

(c) whether contracts for modernisation of the airports have been awarded;

(d) if so, the details thereof, airport wise;

(e) whether any time-frame has been fixed for the work; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) *and (b) Government of India has decided to modernize 35 non-metro airports.* These airports are located at Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Guwahati, Jaipur, Udaipur, Thiruvananthapuram, Lucknow, Goa, Madurai, Mangalore, Agatti, Aurangabad, Khajuraho, Rajkot, Vadodara, Bhopal, Indore, Nagpur, Visakhapatnam, Trichy, Bhubaneswar, Coimbatore, Patna, Port Blair, Varanasi, Agartala, Dehradun, Imphal, Ranchi, Raipur, Agra, Chandigarh, Dimapur, Jammu and Pune. The air side including Terminal Building of all these airports would be developed by Airports Authority of India (AAI). However, the city side development of the 24 out of 35 non-metro airports would be taken up through Private Sector Participation.

(c) to (f) Works for the Terminal Buildings and air side facilities have been finalised and are taken up by AAI. The development of all the 35 non-metro airports will be completed by 2010.

Recruitment of pilots

186. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any acute shortage of pilots in the country;

(b) if so, the estimated requirement of pilots for the year 2015;

(c) whether pilots are recruited from foreign countries;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken to fill up the vacancies indigenously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) With the exponential growth in the Indian civil aviation industry there is an increase in the number of scheduled and non scheduled operators with many of them going in for a fleet expansion programme including new types of aircraft. This has manifested in shortage of pilots.

(b) With the present growth of aviation industry it has been estimated that in the next five years 5000 additional pilots would be required for scheduled operations and 1000 pilots for non scheduled and private operations.